These adjustments had been necessitated by the growing external and internal imbalances in the economy. The balance of payments situation had become very critical reflected by a sharp drawdown of reserves. Since October, 1990 there has been an appreciation in the real effective exchange rate of the rupee as a result of a relatively high rate of inflation in the country vis-a-vis Indias major trading partners and a much slower rate of depreciation in the nominal exchange rate leading to an erosion in the international competitiveness of the economy. It was equally necessary to stem the destabilising market expectations which were generated by perceptions about the exchange value of the rupee. It is expected that these exchange rate adjustments would stabilise the balance of payments situation in the short-term and improve the balance of trade situation in the medium-term.

[*Translation*]

**Construction of Bye-Pass on National Highway No. 24 at Faridpur (Bareilly)**

420. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 915 on November 17, 1988 and state :

(a) whether any provision was made to construct a bye-pass to reduce congestion on the segment of National Highway No. 24 passing through Faridpur (Bareilly), Uttar Pradesh, in the list of bye-passes to be constructed in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons for not constructing this bye-pass so far; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to construct this bye-pass ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**National Highways in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar**

421. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the National Highways in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar affected by rains and floods during the last three years; and

(b) the amount spent on their repairs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Generally all the National Highways in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were affected by rains and floods during the last three years.

(b) The amount spent on their repairs during the last three years is as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Year | Bihar | Uttar Pradesh |
|---|---|---|
| 1988-89 . . | 472.174 | 653.47 |
| 1989-90 . . | 286.550 | 440.87 |
| 1990-91 . . | 174 693 | (up to Feb. 1991 293.92 |
| TOTAL . . | 933.417 | 1,388.26 |